

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Club Meetings

Third Monday of each month at Williams on the Lake, 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (west of the fairgrounds).

- 6:30 - 7:00 pm question and answer session
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm meeting and speaker

February 17 – Special Club Event. 5:30, Williams on the Lake. Meeting with Jean Knudson for volunteers interested in participating in a project to study how well “ankle biter queens” can work in our area. Read more about the project in the [club news](#) section.

February 17 – Denzil St. Clair – Coming out of Winter.

Denzil St Clair from Queen Right Colonies will discuss what to look for in your hives as they come out of winter and best practices to help your bees prepare for spring build-up. The session will be informative and entertaining!

March 16 – Dr. Jay Evans, USDA Beltsville Lab – The state of Honey Bees and Viruses. Jay Evans is Research Leader for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) in Beltsville, MD. The BRL is focused on developing management strategies to help honey bees thrive in the face of disease, chemical stress, and inadequate forage. Jay's uses genetic techniques and controlled challenge experiments to find new ways to reduce the impacts of parasites and pathogens.

April 20 – Andrew Connor – How to Read Frames. What to look for and how to understand what you see when you look at brood, comb patterns, resources, and disease.

May 18, 2020 – Dr. Tracey Cook – Herbs, Honey Bees, and Humans. Among the topics that Tracey will discuss are interactions, dependencies, and benefits.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in February

Should you replace your Queen?

These topics require me to state that my comments are my opinions, based on my experience. Others may disagree (so what's new?)



Healthy Queen, Strong Hive

Your queen looks great, your hive is thriving, full of brood and bees. But so many things you hear and read tell you to replace your queen every year. The thought is that new queens are stronger going into winter and are less likely to swarm. So, what to do?

First year queens often build up a nice hive, sometimes very strong. But their second year is when they come into their own. Second year queens in healthy hives tend to build wonderfully strong hives. **In ten years of beekeeping I have found this to be true almost every time.**

As for some of the other claims.... I've had many new queens swarm the same year. And what is better, the proven queen you have or a new queen that is unproven? Did the weather weaken her mating? Will her brood be gentle?

In ten years, I have **NEVER** replaced a queen unless something was clearly wrong. And

usually the bees will do it for you with a supercedure queen (wonderful queens).

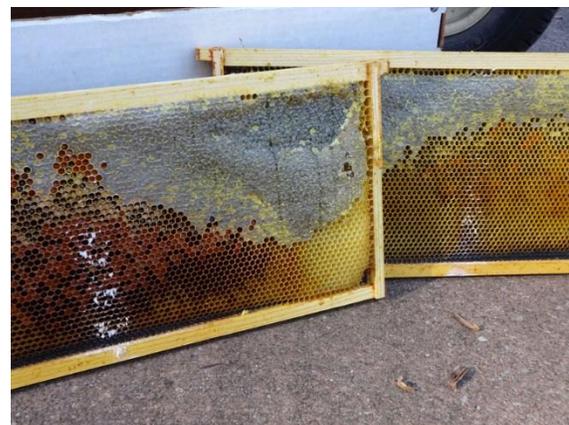
When not to use Oxalic Acid for Varroa.

I read and hear beekeepers using OXA in December and January, saying it's OK down to about 30 degrees. That does not make sense to me since when the bees are clustered tight how effective can the treatment be? And how long does the "vapor" last before condensing? I have always suspected not long. I preach using it when temps are about 50 or higher.

Last year I did not treat two of my hives in November due to weather and a busy schedule. I decided to treat them in December (only 40 degrees). Treatment seemed to be OK.

In mid- December one of the hives died. Some dead bees on the screen, clean hive, lots of food. When I cleaned it up, I found white OXA powder on the lower part of two frames where I placed the OXA. I think it was too cold.

Last week I checked the other hive (had a new Saskatraz Q). It was dead. When I cleaned it up, I found the same exact powder residue.



OXA Residue on Frames

Coincidence? In ten years, I had only lost two hives twice, and two were nucs. Or maybe the hive was clustered low, close to the bottom? Either way the temps appeared to be too cold for safe treatment. I learned the hard way!

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting January 20, 2020 DRAFT

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Medina County Beekeeper's Association, was held at the Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio on January 20, 2020. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: Kim Barkfelt presented the minutes from the November 16, 2019 meeting as published in the December 2019 newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: Vice President, Peggy Garnes, announced upcoming speakers as follows:

- February - Denzil St. Clair from Queen Right Colonies "Coming Out of Winter"
- March - Dr. Jay Evans from the USDA Beltsville Lab presents research findings on the state of honey bees and viruses
- April - Andrew Connor - "Reading Your Frames"
- May - Dr. Tracey Cook - "Herbs, Honey Bees and Humans"

Committee Reports: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: March 6-7, 2020 Tri-County Beekeepers Association, 42nd Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop

Presentation: Speaker - Bill Stitt - Native bees in Ohio and Opportunities for native habitat creation in Medina. Bill is a Medina County resident, has been a beekeeper for 21 years, is a certified naturalist, has worked with Medina County Parks, and currently works with OSU extension as a pollinator specialist, including identification specialist.

Adjournment: February 17, 2020 at 7:00 P.M and Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting.

MBA Club News

Join the Fight Against Varroa!

Jean Knudson has volunteered to organize a project to improve Varroa counts in hives by the use of ankle biter queens. She plans to start with a small number of volunteers across the club area. Results will be monitored and tallied to see how well the effort works. If successful, the opportunity will be available to any member interested in trying this method in the fight against varroa. One hope is that by working as a group we will do what needs to be done. It gets tedious on our own, easy to skip some checks. Jean will be at Monday's meeting (January 17). Let her know if you would like to be informed about meetings for this group or help with the project

Feeding Pollen

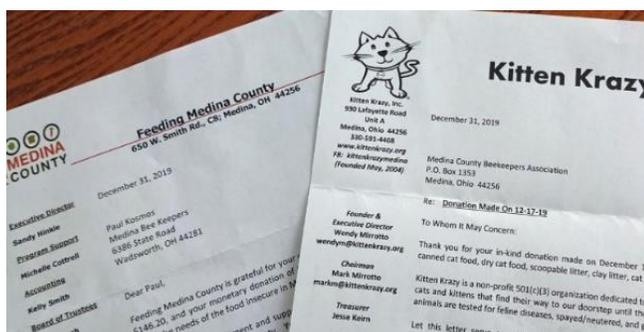
One of our members has a couple hives light on food, so he decided to try putting out some pollen powder in one of Peggy's (Chuck's) feeders. They liked it!

Winter Feed Available at the February Meeting

Peggy will have Winter Feed available at the February meeting this Monday! This is not pollen substitute, but the high sugar low protein Winter Feed from Mann Lake that she brought in last year. Bring cash to the meeting if you are interested in purchasing feed.

Thank you from Feeding Medina and Kitten Crazy

Feeding Medina and Kitten Crazy sent MCBA thank you letters for the holiday party donations. Thanks to everyone who contributed to spread the good will!



The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – February

Welcome new MCBA beekeepers and club members! We hope that you are enjoying the beginning beekeeping classes. Once you get your bees and start putting into practice what you are learning in class, please send some photos and updates about your beekeeping. We would love to hear from you! This goes for all club members. Email Tania@HinckleyHoney.com. We would love to include comments and photos from our members in the newsletter.

For members who took bees into the winter, how are your bees doing? The days of warm weather every now and again has given us a few chances this winter to pop inner covers for a quick peek. When the temperature is 50 degrees or higher, take a quick look into the hive.

Although it is possible that bees at the top of the frames mean that there is no food, this is not always the case. Check to see whether your hive feels light – go ahead and weigh it again – and whether you see capped honey in the top frames. If not, here are a few options for emergency feeding:

- Winter patties. Winter patties are higher in carbohydrates and lower in protein than spring pollen patties. You can purchase them through a local bee supply store and pop them on top of the frames. Talk to Peggy at the February 17 meeting. She will have winter feed available for purchase.
- Candy boards. You will cook sugar, pour it into a wintering cover, and when it cools, invert the cover over the hive in place of an inner cover. Candy boards provide accessible food and help absorb condensation and moisture. [Here is a link to a recipe that I have used.](#)

- Fondant. Place fondant, a block of cooked sugar, on top of the frames. You'll need to have a shim or wintering cover to make room on top of the frames. [Here is a link to a recipe to make fondant.](#)
- Mountain Camp method. This method is economical and does not require any cooking. Place a piece of newspaper over one-half of the frames, pour sugar on the newspaper, and then spray the sugar with a bit of water. You'll need a shim for this method also. [Here is a link to information about how to do this.](#)

Local and Regional Events

Western PA Beekeepers' Seminar, Monroeville, PA, February 14, 2020 (7 pm – 9 pm) and February 15, 2020 (8 am – 5 pm)

Speakers include Lewis Bartlett, Brock Harpur, and Ian Stepler. In addition to workshops and a vendor area, the conference includes a new tradition called "Operation Honey Drop". Seminar attendees can leave one bottle of their honey at the registration table for a photograph that will showcase local beekeepers. After the seminar, the honey will be donated to local food banks. Follow this link for more information: <https://beavervalleybees.net/index.php/event/western-pa-beekeeping-seminar/>

Tri County Beekeepers' Workshop- Wooster, OH, March 7, 2020

The 42nd Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop will be held on March 6-7, 2020 at 1680 Madison Ave Wooster, Ohio 44691. Top speakers, leading vendors, a good time, and wonderful maple rolls! This year the main speaker is Mike Palmer. You won't want to miss this one! Read more and register: <https://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association (SEMBA) Conference, Bellville, MI, March 14, 2020

Save the date for the 82nd Annual SEMBA Conference on March 14, 2020 at the Wayne County Community College District Ted Scott Campus in Belleville, MI. Watch this space for more information: <https://www.sembabees.org/conference>

West Virginia Beekeeping Association Spring Conference

The WVBA Spring Conference "Bee Sustainable" will be held March 20-21, 2020 at the Randolph County Armory in Elkins, WV. The conference will focus on sustainable beehive management and help participants learn to raise their own queens, create value-added products, and encourage bee health. The conference will feature four reputable presenters on beekeeping topics, a beekeeping-related marketplace, a mead tasting with Healthberry Farm, and many breakout sessions focused on helping new and established beekeepers.

Advance registration is required for a guarantee of lunch, but walk-ups are welcome. There are opportunities for attendees to be involved, including a photography contest, hive-painting contest, hands-on workshops and networking.

Online registration will begin January 15th. Pre-Registration by mail must be postmarked by March 9th, 2020 to receive the reduced ticketed price of \$40. The walk-up registration fee is \$45. Lunch for walk-up registrants may be limited. To register or learn more, visit www.wvbeekeepers.org.

Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District Seedling Sale

The District is offering some new selections as well as many varieties that we offer each year. Deadline for ordering is April 1, 2020, but order early as they are sold on a first come-first served basis and many seedlings will be sold out before that date. Pickup dates for seedlings are Friday, April 24, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 25-8:00 a.m. -Noon at Geig's Orchard, 8468 Wooster Pike (State Route 3), Seville. Most seedlings will easily fit in a grocery sack. Details and order form are at: <https://medinaswcd.org/seedlings/>



Employment Opportunity

Jerry Hayes, the new editor of Bee Culture Magazine and longtime former contributor to the American Bee Journal sent the following: Our HR person asked that I share with Medina Beekeepers a need for workers for either first or second shift to make/decorate Pascal Candles. \$10.00 an hour. This would be at Al Root in Medina (625 W. Liberty St., Medina, OH. 44256). If interested, contact hr@rootcandles.com: 330-725-6677 Ext.3224. Leave a message for Judy.



Bee Research

Recent publications by researchers funded by the National Science Foundation provide new insights into bees, as well as into ways in which bee behavior can be applied to different settings.

Study reveals evolutionary clues to honeybees' social complexity

Recent research at the University of New Hampshire advances our understanding of the evolutionary shift from honeybees' loner ancestors to the social beings they are now. This research is important to understand how genes influence behavior; how behavior evolves; and how collective activities, as seen in the honeybees, are maintained. "Read the press release here:

https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=299967&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

Bees' movements may lead to new swimming, flying robots

Engineering researchers at Caltech are studying the unique way bees navigate the interface between water and air. When a bee lands on water, the water sticks to the wings of a bee and prevents the bee from flying. However, that stickiness creates a wave that propels the bee forward. The researchers are applying their findings to robotics research, developing a small robot that uses a similar motion, which

could be used to design robots that can both fly and swim. Read the press release here:
https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=299799&org=NSF&from=news

Beginner's Beekeeping Class – A great reason to join the club!

Cost for the class is \$85 for an individual or \$100 for a family. Current MCBA members who have paid for and taken the class before may retake the class for free. Students receive a textbook, 1-year membership in the Medina County Beekeepers Association and a variety of magazines and catalogs from the beekeeping industry. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged so we know how to prepare, but late registration will be available at the door as long as space is available.

[Beginner Beekeeper Class 2020 Saturday](#)

track: Sat, Feb 22 and 29, 2020; 9:00 am – 4:30 pm at Medina County District Library, 210 South Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256.

[Beginner Beekeeper Class 2020 Tuesday](#)

track: Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020; 6:00 pm –8:15 pm at Medina County District Library, 210 South Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256.



<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017765248/>

2020 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

If you have not yet paid your 2020 annual dues, now is the time. Take care of this task before beekeeping season really gets going. You know you won't have a lot of free time then.

Annual MCBA membership has two options for members, \$20 if newsletters will be emailed or \$25 for a printed newsletter mailed to your postal address. Membership provides one vote in MCBA club matters and includes one family member in club activities other than voting.

You may renew your membership either [online here](#) or complete the form below, make a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, and

- Mail both to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258 OR
- **Bring a check and completed membership form to the club treasure at a club meeting.**

Membership Form - Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

e-mail: (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____